

# What's New in the MPDC

JULY 8, 2002

## FEWER THAN 1 IN 10 NOW SPEEDING AGGRESSIVELY, LATEST PHOTO RADAR RESULTS SHOW

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*Installation began this past week on the District's first 24-hour-a-day, "fixed pole" photo radar camera. It is being located in a 25-mile-per-hour zone in the 700 block of Florida Avenue, NE, directly adjacent to Gallaudet University. Once the camera is installed and officially announced, there will be a 30-day warning period for motorists before actual tickets are issued.*

For the first time since DC launched its photo radar program last summer, fewer than 1 in 10 of the vehicles monitored was speeding aggressively during May 2002, the latest month for which data are available. While close to 31 percent of the vehicles monitored by photo radar during the July 2001 warning period exceeded the program's speeding threshold, only about 9.6 percent of the vehicles exceeded the threshold in May 2002. That's a reduction of more than 69 percent in the percentage of aggressive

*The MPDC is actively seeking recommendations for new photo radar locations – either mobile (vehicle) or fixed-camera locations. To recommend a site, e-mail Lt. Patrick Burke, MPDC's Traffic Safety Coordinator, at [pburke@mpdc.org](mailto:pburke@mpdc.org).*

speeders on DC roads and highways in less than a year, according to the latest statistics on the program. The reduction in aggressive speeding occurred even though a record number of vehicles were monitored by photo radar during May 2002. A total of 653,510 vehicles passed by photo radar vehicles during the month; more than 90 percent were traveling within the program's speeding threshold. Since ticketing began last August, the total number of photo radar citations mailed has surpassed 300,000. However, the monthly number of citations has generally declined as the number of aggressive speeders has fallen. Detailed information on photo radar results can be accessed at:

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults.shtm)

## CHIEF RAMSEY PRAISES POLICE, COMMUNITY FOR ENSURING A SAFE AND FESTIVE JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>

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Chief Ramsey praised police officers – from the MPDC and several other agencies – and members of the community for helping DC celebrate our nation's independence in a safe, orderly and festive manner. US Park Police reported only a handful of arrests for misdemeanor offenses, and there were no serious incidents on the National Mall or at other neighborhood celebrations around the city. By adjusting days off and restricting leave, the MPDC activated all of its sworn personnel on July 4<sup>th</sup>. While the MPDC provided the largest share of officers along the Mall, the majority of MPDC officers were assigned to beefed-up neighborhood patrols. Ramsey thanked the community for its planning and patience in quickly getting through the 24 security checkpoints set up along the National Mall and in dispersing in an orderly manner after the fireworks ended. The MPDC activated its Joint Operations Command Center and the District's limited Closed Circuit Television system to assist with security during the July 4<sup>th</sup> event, and the Department raised its Emergency Response Level from 1 to 3. The JOCC and CCTV systems were brought down early Friday morning, and the Emergency Response Level returned to Level 1.

## 4D OFFICER RECEIVES TOP HONORS DURING JULY "CHAMPS" AWARD CEREMONY

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Speeders, hit-and-run drivers, abandoned buildings and nuisance properties were chronic problems plaguing some Fourth District residents – until Patrolman First Class Medgar Webster and the Traffic and Nuisance Task Force got involved. Thanks to Webster's leadership, a two-initiative campaign resulted in the arrest of 30 aggressive and reckless motorists and the closing of two male entertainment clubs that had been the sites of several violent crimes. He was also instrumental in the prosecution of Capital City Towing for illegal waste, as well as the removal of dozens of abandoned autos. For his hard work and commitment to improving the quality of life in the Fourth District, PFC Webster was recently honored as the Department-wide Officer of the Month. Webster and 20 other MPDC officers were recognized during the July CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) award luncheon held at the Latham Hotel. Read more about their award-winning efforts at:

[mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2002/07.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2002/07.shtm)

*HEROES, Inc., (Honor Every Responsible Officer's Eternal Sacrifice) is an organization that assists the widows and children of law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty. One of the group's major fundraisers is an annual golf tournament, to be held July 11 and 12 at Indian Springs Country Club in Silver Spring, MD. For information on how you or your organization can support HEROES, call Captain Kevin Keegan at 202-727-2201 or visit the HEROES Web site:*

[www.heroes-inc.org](http://www.heroes-inc.org)

## SAFETY TIPS FOR RUNNERS, WALKERS AND BICYCLISTS

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DC's recent heat wave has prompted health concerns about people who run, walk and bicycle in the hot weather. But regardless of the weather, people exercising outdoors can always be the targets of pickpockets, thieves and other criminals. The MPDC wants you to be safe as you run, walk or bike this summer and throughout the year. You can reduce your risk of victimization by following some basic safety tips. For example, avoid wearing jewelry or carrying cash (other than some pocket change in case you need to make a phone call – better yet, carry a cell phone if you have one). Stay alert and listen to your surroundings, which means avoiding the use of headsets. And if you go out in the early morning or late evening hours, make sure people can see you. Use some type of reflective device on your clothing, and consider staying in well-lighted areas. For these and other related safety tips, click on:

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/street/runners.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/street/runners.shtm)

*Bicyclists are reminded that, while helmets are a good safety device for all people who use bicycles, they are mandatory for children under the age of 16 in DC. Get more information on DC's helmet law and other bicycle safety tips at:*

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/bikers.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/bikers.shtm)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- Chief Ramsey and other MPDC leaders will testify before the DC Council Committee on the Judiciary during a public oversight hearing on Public Safety Services for District Residents. Wednesday, July 11, 10 am, Room 412 of the John W. Wilson Building. The Chief and other MPDC leaders will also testify before the DC Council Subcommittee on Human Rights, Latino Affairs and Property Management and the Committee on the Judiciary during a joint public oversight hearing on Review of Metropolitan Police Department Recruitment, Deployment and Outreach in the Latino Community. Thursday, July 12, 10 am.
- The annual National Night Out against crime celebration will take place on Tuesday, August 6. For information about events in your community, contact your local police district or call the MPDC's Community Outreach Section at 202-727-0783.

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov).*

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